

# NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**Environmental Assessment**  
*for the*  
**Natchez Trace Parkway**  
**Section 3X Multi-Use Trail**  
**Natchez, Mississippi**

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The National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration are pleased to announce the availability of the *Environmental Assessment for the Natchez Trace Parkway Section 3X Multi-Use Trail*. The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, of the Federal Highway Administration, and URS Corporation, have prepared this document in cooperation with the National Park Service in order to identify and evaluate the potential impacts of a new multi-use trail on the natural and cultural resources of the Natchez Trace Parkway. The *Environmental Assessment* has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality.

**Preferred Alternative:** The proposed project study area is located south of the Natchez Trace Parkway and Route 61 intersection, where the Parkway has not yet been completed and opened to the public. The Preferred Alternative alignment for the multi-use trail is approximately 8.6 miles long and parallels this portion of the Natchez Trace Parkway on the west. It would provide a separate ten-foot wide trail apart from the Parkway motor road for such uses as cycling, hiking, and wildlife observation. Through its design the trail will encourage use from a diverse segment of society, following American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for at least the southern four miles. The various proposed parking areas would allow individuals to easily access the portions of the trail they wish to use. Bridges and culverts would be used to cross the existing roads and streams. The trail would adjoin the Parkway motor road at three locations to cross over large stream systems. Construction of this multi-use trail would occur simultaneously with construction completion of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

**Public Review:** The National Park Service considers public involvement an important component to a successful planning process and we invite you to furnish written comments to the address below:

**Superintendent**  
**National Park Service**  
**2680 Natchez Trace Parkway**  
**Tupelo, MS 38804**

The *Environmental Assessment* will be available for public review at the following locations:  
Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor Center located at 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway in Tupelo, MS;  
Judge George W. Armstrong Library located at 220 South Commerce in Natchez, MS;  
Natchez District Office located at Milepost 15.5 along the Natchez Trace Parkway;  
Natchez National Historic Park located at 640 South Canal Street in Natchez, MS;  
Vicksburg National Military Park located at 3201 Clay Street in Vicksburg, MS;  
and on the world wide web at <http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/nepa/index.htm>

Additional copies of the Environmental Assessment may be obtained by writing to Ms. Brigitte A. Azran, Environmental Compliance Engineer, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, 21400 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, Virginia 20166. If you have any additional questions concerning this announcement, please contact Ms. Brigitte Azran at (703) 404-6283.

Please submit all comments by the closing of the comment period on December 1, 2002.